

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09802 040832Z

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2077

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 9802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH IN SK

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY CONDEMNS INDIAN " ANNEXATION" OF SIKKIM

SUMMARY. PRC MEDIA'S SHARP CRITICISM OF INDIA'S PLANS TO "ANNEX" SIKKIM, ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECT, PERSONAL ATTACK ON INDIRA GANDHI SUGGESTS THAT PEKING CONSIDERS THE CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AS DIM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TANDEM WITH REPLAYS OF THE CHOGYAL'S DENUNCIATION OF DELHI'S PLANNED "ANNEXATION" OF SIKKIM, AN AUTHORITATIVE PEOPLE'S DAILY " COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE ON SEPTEMBER 3 STRONGLY DENOUNCED THE MOVE AS A "DESPICABLE ACT OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT" AND "A GRAVE INCIDENT". INVEIGHING AGAINST NEW DELHI 'S PLOTS TO REDUCE SIKKIM TO A "COLONY" AND TO "LEGALIZE" SUCH ACTION, "COMMENTATOR" REDICULED THE "SO -CALLED SIKKIM REQUEST" FOR MERGER WITH INDIA. CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM NEW DELHI WERE CITED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 HONG K 09802 040832Z

SUPPORT OF THE ASSERTION THAT " THE CLUMSY TRICK IS CRYSTAL CLEAR

EVEN TO THE INDIANS".

2. PEKING, AS USUAL, SEES MOSCOW'S HAND BEHIND DELHI'S MACHINATIONS. WARNING THAT "FACTS HAVE SHOWN ONCE AGAIN THAT SOVIET REVISIONIST SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM AND INDIAN EXPANSIONISM CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND ARE THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE UNSTABLE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT", THE ARTICLE DECLARED THAT INDIA'S EXPANSIONIST AND AGGRESSIVE AMBITION IS NOT LIMITED TO SIKKIM.

3. DEPARTING FROM THE RECENT ABSTENTION FOR DIRECT AND PERSONAL ATTACKS ON INDIA'S LEADERS, "COMMENTAROR" CONTENDED THAT "NEHRU AND HIS DAUGHTER HAVE ALWAYS ACTED THIS WAY AND INDIRA CANDHI HAS GONE FARTHER". IT CHARACTERIZED THE INDIAN EXPANSIONISTS AND THE SOVIET PROTECTORS AS "LIND MEN AND FOOLS." THE ARTICLE QUOTED THE MAO DICTUM THAT "RETROGRESSION EVENTUALLY PRODUCES THE REVERSE OF WHAT IT PROMOTERS INTEND" AND ADDED THAT THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

4. COMMENT. CHINA HAS CONSISTENTLY VIEWED INDIAN ACTIONS IN SIKKIM AS INTERFERENCE IN THAT COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, "COMMENTATOR'S" VITRIOLIC REMARKS AND PEKING'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO CRITICIZE INDIAN LEADERS SUGGESTS THAT PEKING VIEWS THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AS DIM.

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